



# ACADIENSIS

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THE INTERESTS OF THE  
MARITIME PROVINCES  
OF CANADA.



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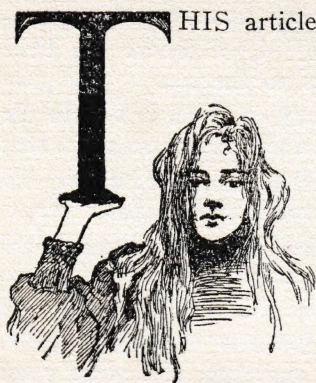
No. 2

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## The History of Caraquet.



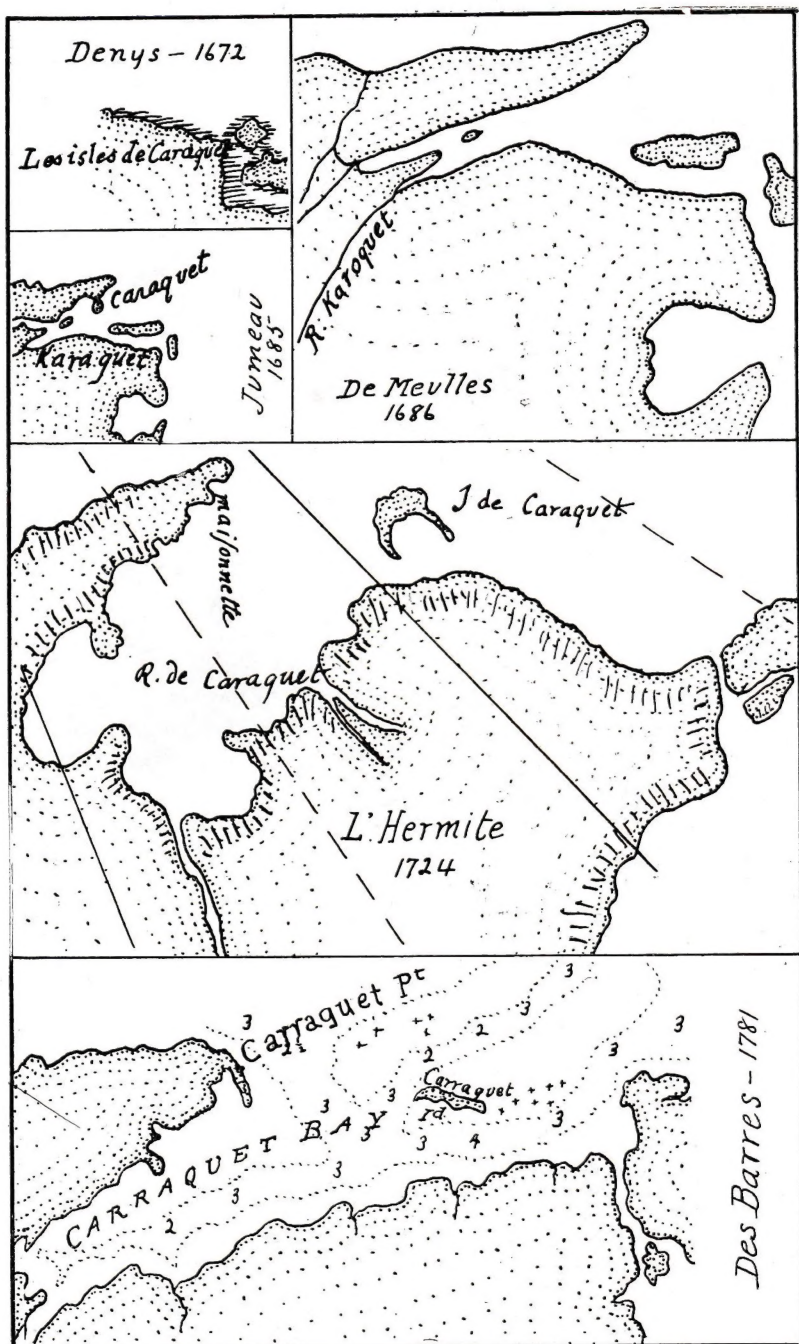
THIS article is one of a series aiming to collect, while yet it is possible, the still unrecorded facts about the origin of the settlements of the North Shore of New Brunswick, and to present these in conjunction with an outline of the earlier history of the places and a statement of all published works making mention of them. These matters already are of interest to some people, and in time to come they will interest many more. The preceding articles dealt with Miscou, Tracadie and Pokemouche, while others upon Tabusintac, Shippegan, and a few more are in preparation.

The Province of New Brunswick is roughly quadrangular in shape, and its principal northern boundary is formed by Bay Chaleur. Towards the eastern end of this bay, on the south side, near where the mainland breaks up into a group of islands, lies Caraquet. The Caraquet River, running north-eastward parallel with the coast of Bay Chaleur, broadens as it meets the sea into an extensive shallow basin, which is con-



tinuous with a narrower but deeper harbor to the eastward inside Caraquet Island. Along the southern shore of this great double harbor, spread out in a line nearly fourteen miles long, lies Caraquet Village, the largest and most populous in New Brunswick. The shore, like that of Bay Chaleur, and unlike the eastern coast near by, is bold and rocky, rising in places to vertical cliffs, which at Lower Caraquet are fifty feet in height. They give to the place a distinctive appearance as seen from the water—a line of closely-clustered houses rising above rocky escarpments, which dip gracefully down where the little waterways cut their valleys to the sea. The gray sandstone rocks, thus so finely exposed, belong to the Coal Measures, though to their lower strata which rarely contain good coal. But they form a fair soil which, when properly farmed, yields good crops, especially of wheat and potatoes; but farming is not well done at Caraquet, because greater and more alluring wealth is offered by the sea. Lying before it are the richest fishing grounds of Bay Chaleur, abounding in cod, herring, mackerel and other good fish, while its excellent harbor gives shelter not only for smaller craft, but for the schooners which make voyages to the banks of the Gulf, and even to larger vessels which carry the fish to distant parts of the world. It is not only a great fishing centre in itself, the largest in New Brunswick, but, having unbroken communication summer and winter with the rest of the world, and possessing the best harbor near the fishing grounds, it is also an outfitting and trading centre both for the fishing settlements of the islands to the eastward and also for the farming districts to the southward, whose metropolis it is. It has some other resources: a little farming, but not enough to supply itself; some quarrying of freestone, though mostly for local use; and some fishing for oysters,





EARLY MAPS OF CARAQUET.



(here in their most northerly locality on the Atlantic coast of America), though these from over-fishing are now well-nigh extinct. But these occupations are of minor consequence and incidental to the main employment and principal reason for being of Caraquet—the sea-fishery.

The country around Caraquet, like all of New Brunswick, has undergone wonderful changes in the remote past. The studies of science have shown that at one time all the Bay Chaleur was dry land, and stood high above the level of the sea. Then, it is believed, two great rivers, which arose far in the interior of New Brunswick at the present sources of the Miramichi, flowed through Caraquet. A part of the valley of one of them is still occupied by the Caraquet River, and this is why that river has its curious course parallel with the Bay Chaleur, while parts of the other valleys are occupied by the rapids of the Pokemouche, by the lower deep part of Saint Simon, by Little Lamec, by the bogs of Shippegan, and by Miscou Gully. Later the land sank under the sea forming Bay Chaleur, and where it cut across the ridge between the two great valleys it made the cliffs of Caraquet. But I cannot take space to follow farther this absorbing subject, and I must leave the reader to study it if he wishes in the writings that treat of it, which he may find in the *Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick* (published at St. John, N. B.), Volume V, 1906, page 423, and at 524 in the same volume. The geology of the cliffs is explained by Dr. R. W. Ells in the *Report of the Geological Survey of Canada*, for 1879-80, D. 6; and in a later *Report*, for 1887, 30 M., Dr. Chalmers comments upon the extensive marshes at the mouth of the Caraquet River. Such marshes, by the way, sometimes show remarkable dikes, of which there are fine examples on the upper Saint Simon, and these are thought by some



to have been made by the early settlers, though in fact they are formed naturally by the ice.

While speaking of the natural phenomena of Caraquet, we must not omit mention of another that has recently aroused somewhat wide interest—the fire ship. Everybody in Caraquet has heard of it, and many claim to have seen it. Stripped of all fancies the stories seem to hold a kernel of truth, tending to show that a curious light does appear on the bay at times, especially before a storm, and has a form which may be imagined into the shape of a burning boat. Science, of course, will hear of no mysterious explanation, but would hold that it is a natural phenomenon, probably electrical, somewhat like the Saint Elmo's fire seen at sea about the masts of ships. It is all fully discussed from the scientific viewpoint in the *Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick*, Volume V, page 419.

There is yet another striking natural feature of Caraquet—the charm of the Bay Chaleur scenery, which has excited the admiration of every visitor. Somehow in summer all the distance seems to glow with softest blue, the sea, the sky, the distant Gaspé hills; while all the line of shore and island and forest breathe the very air of quiet peace and rest. But there is one feature which ever draws back the eye to itself—the Gaspé mountains across the bay, rising varied rugged eternal in the distance. Near by is a place of especial attractiveness—the grove, or Le Bocage, at Little River. Here on the edge of an elevated shore stand beautiful beech and spruce groves, in a niche of which is a little chapel dedicated to Sainte Anne. The well-kept and pleasing surroundings, the sacred associations of the place, and the superb view of sea, mountain and coast, make it a spot unmatched in all northeastern New Brunswick.

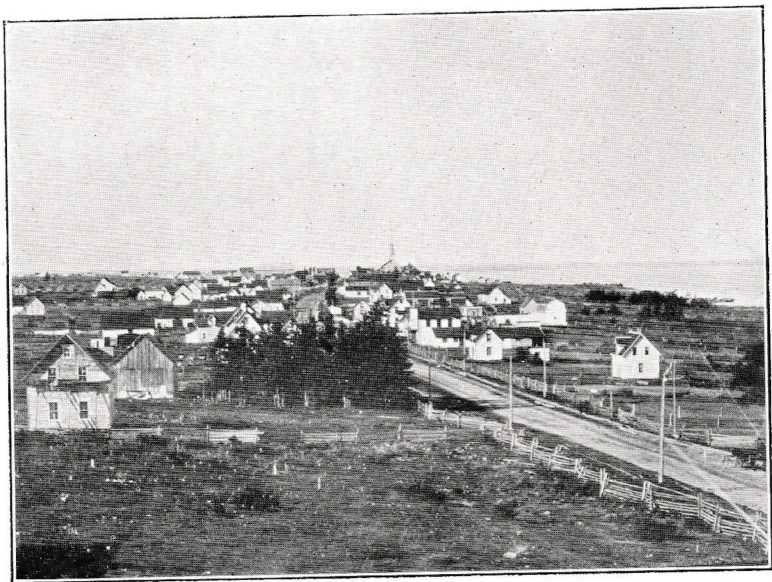




**VIEW OF CARAQUET,**

Looking eastward from the College. Beyond the long wharf is Pointe à Brideau.

*Photo. by Father Courtois.*



**VIEW OF CARAQUET.**

Looking westward from near Pointe à Brideau. The Church and the College show in the distance.

*Photo. by Father Courtois.*



The summer climate of Caraquet is ideal; but the winter is stern, and the unbroken exposure of the place to the sweep of the northern winds across the frozen bay makes the cold there of unusual severity.

So much for the kind of a place that Caraquet is; we turn now to the people whose home it has been. Its first residents were, of course, the Micmac Indians, though the records and traces of their former presence are extremely scanty. Only a single camping ground of theirs seems known to tradition, and that was at Pointe à Brideau, on the present grounds of the Robin Collas Company, where, as old residents have told me, they used to congregate in some numbers. No doubt the never-failing cold brook was an attraction, and the situation is otherwise a pleasant and commanding one. No aboriginal burial grounds or village sites are known, and Caraquet was probably never a favorite resort of theirs, being too exposed for winter residence, and lacking the conditions for eel and other fisheries and for water fowl, on which the Indians so much depended, and which were offered abundantly at Pokemouche, Tracadie, and elsewhere. Probably they made Caraquet little more than a stopping place when travelling along the coast. There are traces of two or three of their portage routes which they may have used to avoid the open sea in bad weather. One was across to Saint Simon by the Portage Brook shown upon the accompanying map, whence they had routes into Pokemouche, as noted in the earlier article upon that place. Another was from North River into Pokeshaw, as shown upon an old map. A third is suggested by a statement in a manuscript by Sieur L' Hermitte, of 1724; it led probably up the South River and Innishannon Brook, and thence to the bay to escape the dangerous passage along the harborless cliffs of Grand Anse and Clifton. One other evidence of the presence of the Micmac remains, and one that

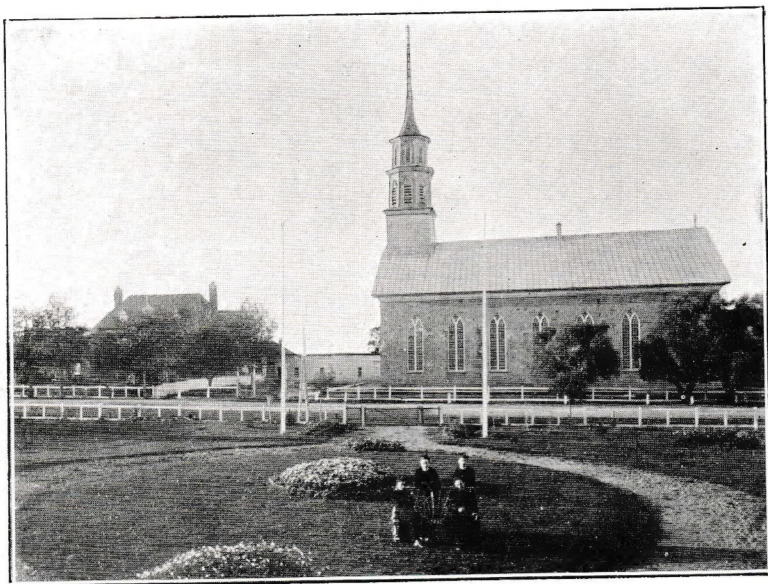


will not vanish, the name Caraquet itself. The Indians to this day call it *Calaket*, but they do not know its meaning. There seems nothing more to say here, except that our scanty information about them is summarized in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada*, Volume XII, 1906, section ii, pages 84 and 98.

After the Indians came the French explorers, then the early traders and missionaries. But no one of them makes any reference to Caraquet, even when Nepisiguit and Miscou were being settled, and it is not until 1672 that Caraquet makes any appearance in historical records. In that year there was published in Paris a book entitled *Description géographique et historique des costes de l'Amerique septentrionale*, by Nicolas Denys, Governor of all the coast from Canso to Gaspé. It is an extremely rare work, which is soon to be published, both in the original and translation, by the Champlain Society of Toronto. Governor Denys, who had a trading establishment at Miscou, and another at Nepisiguit near which he is believed to be buried, gives a brief description of the "Isles of Caraquet" with a very crude map, which is reproduced herewith. This is the earliest known use of the name Caraquet, and it represents the correct spelling of the word, which should always be used in preference to the corrupt form Carquette, which was introduced about 1831, under the supposition, no doubt, that the word was of French origin. The form Caraquet expresses also much better the local pronunciation, which strongly accents the first syllable, and, incidentally, sounds the *qu* exactly like *k*.

After Denys there is a long gap in the historical records. But there is reason to believe that not long after 1724 Caraquet received its first European resident. For Smethurst, in his narrative to be mentioned below, tells us that in 1761 he found living there





**THE CHURCH OF SAINT PETER,**  
 With the Convent (before its enlargement); from the garden of the College.  
*Photo. by Father Courtois.*



**LE BOCAGE,**  
 With the Chapel of Sainte Anne, from the south; on the right is the fence enclosing  
 the Old Burial Ground.  
*Photo. by W. F. Ganong\**



a Frenchman from Old France named Saint Jean, and his half Indian son Jean Baptiste, both of them married to Indian wives. Smethurst says that Saint Jean had been living here near fifty years; but he probably means simply in this country, for a manuscript description of Caraquet by Sieur L'Hermitte in 1724 (his map is given on another page) implies there were then no European residents here, though he mentions a French trader living at Miramichi who was very probably Saint Jean. Descendants of Saint Jean through his daughter still live in Caraquet, as will be noted below, but his name has vanished from the settlement. Happily the site of Saint Jean's residence has been preserved for us by tradition; it was on the eastern side of Ruisseau Isabel, which was formerly called after him (and the name should be restored) Ruisseau Saint Jean. This place seems to have been an early centre of settlement of some importance, for an ancient burial ground is known on the western side, as marked on the map. Some fifty years ago the bodies, which included those of some Indians wrapped in birch bark, and of Europeans, including a person of distinction with whom a large gold crucifix had been buried, were removed to the burial ground near the church.

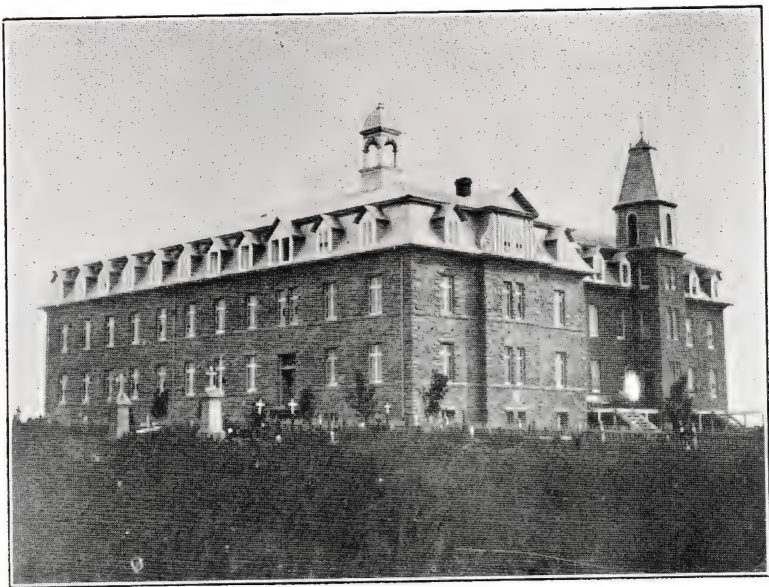
The next residents of Caraquet apparently came there in the sad days which fell to the Acadians between 1750 and 1760. It is not necessary to repeat here the well-known story of the Acadian expulsion, but it does perhaps need emphasis that the expulsion was not an act of deliberate cruelty practised by the English against the French, but a war measure which the English thought necessary for their own safety, and which was cruel because all war is cruel. Soon after 1750 Acadians were leaving Nova Scotia for Quebec, and perhaps some of them settled at Caraquet. It is reasonably certain that soon after the expulsion



in 1755, Alexis Landry settled at Little River, and others must have taken possession of other places, for in 1760, as an unpublished document in the Paris archives states, there were three French villages of 36 families and 150 persons at Caraquet, with another at Shippegan. We are not told their location, but one was no doubt Saint Jean's village at Ruisseau Saint Jean, one was Landry's at Little River, while the third may have been either near the Indian settlement at Chenard's Brook, or perhaps west of Little River, near the mouth of the Caraquet River. That at Shippegan, as implied by Smethurst's narrative, was apparently on the north side of the mouth of Ruisseau de la Chaloupe. But these villages were of short duration, for the very next year, 1761, Captain Roderick MacKenzie came with an armed force from Nova Scotia, and, in reprisal for attacks by Restigouche privateers upon English vessels, carried or drove off the larger part of the population of Nepisiguit, of Shippegan, and no doubt of Little River and one other French village at Caraquet, though Saint Jean, perhaps because he was not an Acadian, was apparently left undisturbed. It is quite likely, by the way, that Saint Jean continued to live here until other settlers returned, in which case Caraquet may claim to be the oldest continuously occupied settlement in all New Brunswick.

In the meantime another event of great local interest, and with a bearing upon the later history of Caraquet, had occurred. In the year 1760 the long struggle between England and France for supremacy in America was nearing its close, and among the places still held by the French was Restigouche, where a strong force of French soldiers, sailors and habitants was collected. Thence they sent out privateers against the English vessels in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. One of these privateers, as shown by documents in

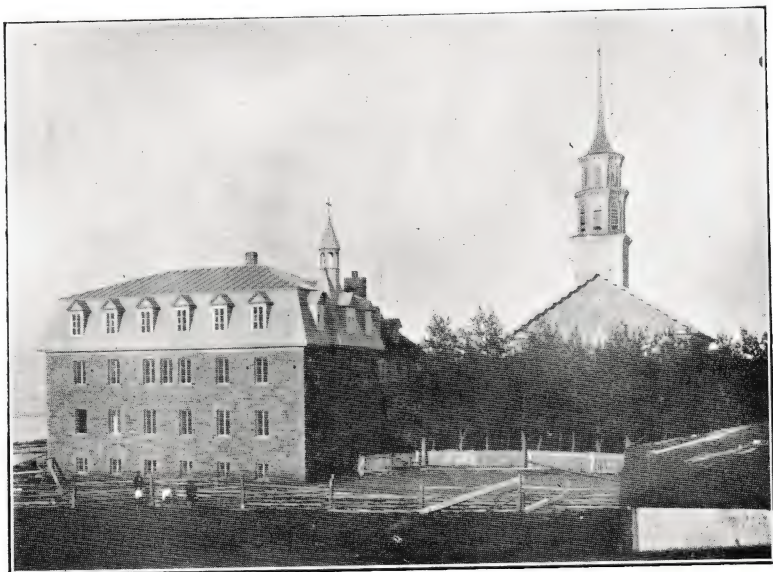




**COLLÈGE DU SACRÉ COEUR, (COLLEGE OF THE SACRED HEART.)**

From the Northeast.

*Photo. by Father Courtois.*



**THE CONVENT (ENLARGED) OF THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME, AND  
THE CHURCH OF SAINT PETER.**

Seen from the West.

*Photo. by Father Courtois*





**VIEW AT SAINT SIMON.**

Showing, to the right of the Acadian family standing in the foreground, the camping place of Saint Simon's sailors in 1760-61, with Birch Point beyond the fence.

*Photo. by the Author in Sept. 1904.*

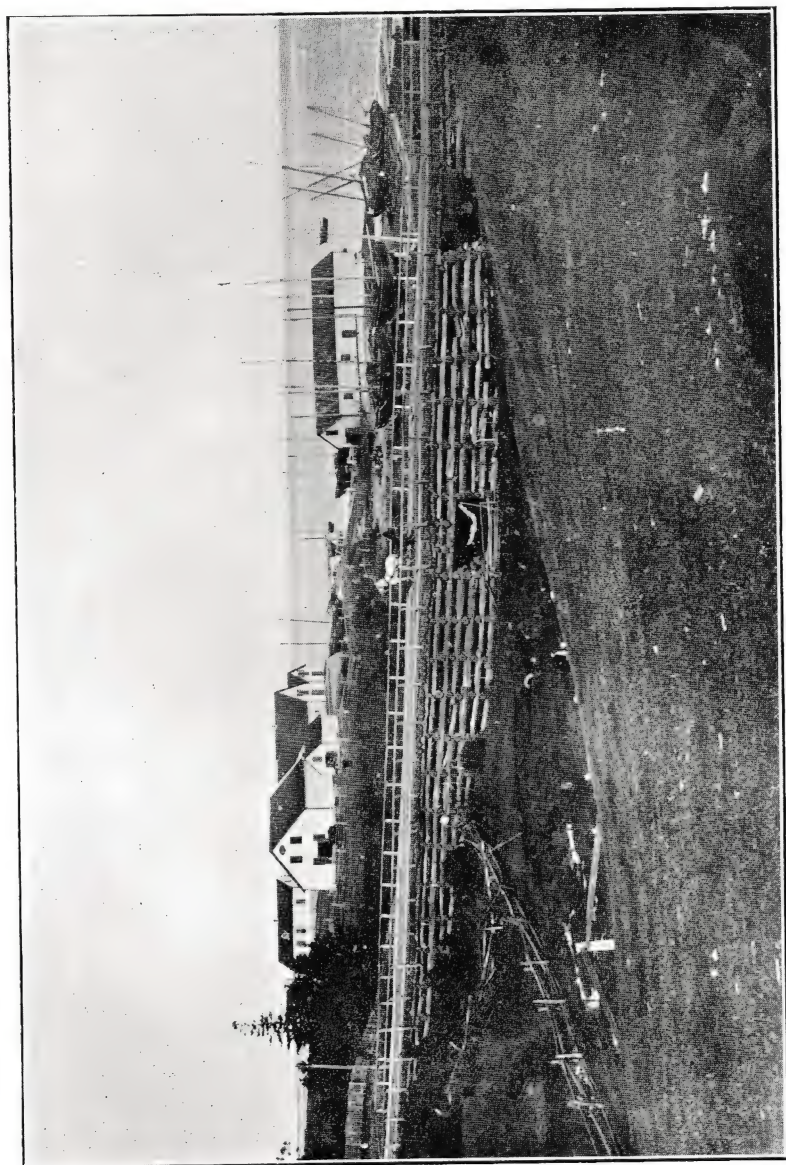


the Paris archives, was fitted out by the French residents of the region, and manned by forty-seven men; and she was apparently commanded by a French captain, Saint Simon. In October, 1760, she captured an English vessel at Gaspé, but soon after met a powerful English frigate, which chased her into Shippegan harbor, and thence into Saint Simon, where she was run ashore by her crew, just off Birch Point, to prevent her from falling into the hands of the English. Her crew escaped to the shore, but, being unable to return to Restigouche, were obliged to winter here. They made their winter camp in a little cove just west of Birch point, at a site still locally well-known and marked by many relics which have been dug up there. In the spring (of 1761) Captain Saint Simon, from whom the beautiful inlet takes its name, made his way southward en route to France, while his crew returned in all probability to their homes across the bay, whence some of them later returned to become the founders of Lower Caraquet, as we shall presently relate. If the reader desires to study farther the full evidence upon which is based the narrative of this event, which is locally somewhat misunderstood, he may find it fully discussed in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada*, Volume XII, 1906, section ii, page 134. It was later in the latter year, 1761, that the English trader Smethurst, abandoned at Nepisiguit by the cowardly master of his own vessel, visited Caraquet on his way to Fort Cumberland. It is he who tells us all we know of Saint Jean and his family, whom he found living at Caraquet, and he mentions also MacKenzie's raid. His narrative was published several years later at London, and is now a very rare book; but it has been re-printed recently, with maps and notes, in the *Collections of the Historical Society of New Brunswick* (St. John, N. B.), Volume II, page 358.



We have now reached the time of the great turning in the history of the Acadian people, the boundary between their earlier years of trial and misfortune, and their subsequent era of peace and prosperity. By the Treaty of Paris of 1763, all Canada passed from France to England, and the Acadian and Canadian French became British subjects, the more willingly because they were all justly and liberally treated by the British Government. The next year (1764) formal permission was given the Acadians by Royal proclamation to return and take up vacant lands in Acadia, and soon after, no doubt, began the permanent settlement of Caraquet. Unfortunately its actual foundation is involved in much obscurity, the more especially as the church records for the early years are missing, and the only statement we possess upon the subject, that by Cooney in his well-known *History of Northern New Brunswick and Gaspé* (page 174) is known to be somewhat in error. Cooney tells us: "The oldest settlement. . . . . is Caraquette, where, it appears, two brothers of the name of La Roc, from Lunaire, and two others called La Burton and St. John, natives of Bretagne, located themselves about 1768." One La Roque was an early settler, as we shall see; La Burton is no doubt the Le Breton who was a founder of Tracadie in 1784, and who may have been earlier a temporary resident of Caraquet, while St. John is no doubt an echo of Saint Jean, who was here, however, much earlier than Cooney says. More accurate knowledge is given us by a paper now in possession of the Landrys, and published a few years ago by M. Gaudet, dated March, 1769,—a permission from George Walker, magistrate at Nepisiguit, to Alexis Landry, to settle at Caraquet, "in the same place which he had formerly occupied;" and other documents show that from September, 1768, until October, 1769, he was living at Caraquet and trading with Ross and Walker merchants of Nepisiguit. As is well-known,





**POINT À BRIDEAU,**  
With the buildings of the Robin, Collas Co., seen across Robin's Brook.

*Photo. by Father Courtois.*



he settled at Le Bocage, Little River, and the tradition that he had settled here shortly after the expulsion in 1755, but was later driven off by the English (of course MacKenzie's raid) thus receives confirmation. Then for many years we have no record of the settlers at Caraquet, though no doubt they were slowly taking up lands there, but in 1779, as a manuscript deposition of one Raphael Dorval informs us, Charles Poirier and Alexis Landry were residents of Caraquet, and Dorval had himself spent the preceding winter there. This deposition shows that the Micmac Indians considered themselves justified by the outbreak of the American war to plunder the settlers; and, although no record of the fact exists, I have no doubt that Caraquet, like all the other settlements in the Bay Chaleur, suffered severely in the year 1776 by the attacks of American privateers, which plundered and burnt everything they found, and which the exposed Caraquet could hardly have escaped. These attacks must have given a great check to the growth of the settlement until British war vessels rid the Gulf of these legalized pirates. Thereafter Caraquet must have gained settlers rapidly, for in 1784 no less than thirty-four families received grants of land there. With these grants we find ourselves for the first time upon firm ground in our history, and from that year to the present can trace it without a break.

But before entering upon this important part of the subject there is one matter I wish to make plain. I could never have gathered the information that follows had I not received the skilled and cheerful aid of several persons who know Caraquet vastly better than I could ever hope to do. One of these was M. Placide Gaudet, of Ottawa, whose knowledge of Acadian history and genealogy is unmatched; he has given me several of the documents mentioned in the preceding pages and some of the facts which follow. Another is M. J. E. Lantaigne, of Caraquet, a descend-



ant of one of the more prominent of the earliest settlers, who has taken the greatest possible interest in my inquiries, has searched the records and sent me far more information than the limitations of these articles has permitted me to use. Mr. J. G. C. Blackhall, a life-long resident of Caraquet, has told me much about the English settlers, and has supplied other data about Bay Chaleur which I hope to use later. Indirectly, too, I am indebted to Monseigneur Allard, the parish priest, who has permitted the parish records to be searched for my purpose; while Rev. Father Courtois, of the College of the Sacred Heart, has been so kind as to take several of the accompanying very illustrative pictures expressly for this work. To these men, generous of their time and knowledge, the greater part of any value this paper may possess is due.

On March 29, 1784, the government of Nova Scotia granted 14,150 acres in one block, with limits shown approximately on the accompanying map, to thirty-four French families. The names of the grantees, the real founders of Caraquet, are all given, and are as follows:

François Gionest,	Louis Mailloux,
Louis Lanteigne,	Pierre Frigaux,
Olivier Legere,	Henri Chenard,
Olivier Blanchard,	Gabriel Albert,
Zacharie Doiron,	Pierre Albert,
Jacques Morret,	Charles Poirier,
Michael Parisé,	Alexis Cormier,
Jean Baptiste Poulin,	Thadée Landry,
Louis Brideau,	Alexis Landry,
Pierre Thibodeau,	Joseph Boudreau,
Jean Cormier,	Pierre Gallien,
Joseph Dugas,	Adrien Gallien,
Pierre Landry,	Charles Gauvin,
Anselme Landry,	Widow Giroux,
Joseph Chiasson,	Widow Boullet,
René (Haché dit) Gallant,	François Landry,
René Bouteiller,	Remi Landry.





**VIEW EASTWARD ACROSS CHENARD'S BROOK,**

Showing part of the fishing fleet, and the sandstone cliffs. On the left is Caraquet Island, and in the foreground are flakes for drying cod.

*Photo. by Father Courtois.*



These settlers fall into two well-marked groups,—*first*, the Acadians who settled at Upper Caraquet west of the church, and *second*, the intermingled Normans-Canadians, with perhaps some soldiers from the garrison at Restigouche, who settled at Lower Caraquet, from the church eastward. I shall now give such information as I possess about them, adding the names of their wives, to show how distinct were the two parts of the settlement, but how homogeneous each part was. It is probable that the Acadians were permanent settlers before the others, but the latter are somewhat more numerous, and I shall begin with them.

First, as to soldiers or sailors of the Restigouche garrison, which was dispersed in 1760. One of these was apparently Michel Parisé (m. Marie Albert) from Normandy, who seems to have been a person of some distinction, since he was styled “Sieur” by the early missionaries, and wrote in a hand indicating education; it is possible he was an officer of the Restigouche garrison or fleet. Another was probably François Gionnest (m. Marie-Anne Le Vicaire, and 2nd Marie Albert), whose excellent writing in some extant records also implies some education; he is known to have come from Coutances, Normandy, and is said to have run away from the army. He was very likely one of the three Frenchmen from Old France who accompanied Smethurst from Nepisiguit to Caraquet in 1761. It is likely, also, that Zacharie Doiron (m. Le Vicaire) and Pierre Frigault (m. Josette Boutheiller), were also soldiers or else sailors. They also are believed to have come from Normandy. Another prominent first settler was Louis Lantaigne (m. about 1758 Marguerite Chapadeau), who may have been a soldier with the French at Restigouche, though it seems probable that he had earlier been a resident among the Norman families across the bay, Yet he apparently had some connection with the



Restigouche garrison, for in 1760 the commander, François Bourdon, stood godfather to his son Eustache. He came from Verai, Davranches, Normandy, and was a son of Nicolas De Lantaigne. He became the founder of the most numerous family in Caraquet, which to-day includes no less than eighty-one voters. Some, or perhaps all, of these men, went with the Normans, next to be mentioned, as sailors on the privateer under Captain St. Simon; and after the destruction of their vessel they no doubt went to live with the Norman families on the other side of the bay, for their wives are, without exception, daughters of these people.

A second and very important group of these settlers were from Norman families who had settled across the bay, at Pabos, Paspebiac, Gaspé, etc. That coast, especially at Grand River, was a favorite resort of Norman fishermen from very early times, as Governor Denys tells us in his book of 1672 (Volume I, page 223). But they appear not to have settled there permanently until after 1724, for Sieur L' Hermitte, in his report of that year, mentions only a single resident on the coast, who was probably Boutheiller, a Canadian (though perhaps of Norman descent). Some time after, however, various French fishermen from Normandy, including perhaps a few from Brittany, began to settle along the coast. They were Chapadeau, Dugué, La Rocque, Mallet, Denis, Canivet, Morret, Le Breton, Huart, Roussy, and probably Le Vicaire (from Coutances, Normandy), Albert and Lantaigne. Most of them came without families, and the earlier arrivals married Indian women, while the later, like the soldiers from the Restigouche garrison, married daughters of these couples. There is a document of 1760 preserved in the Paris archives which gives a list of the settlements of Bay Chaleur in 1760, and it gives at Pabos, Paspe-



biac, Gaspé, etc., seventeen families of "Normands et métisses." And if there were any doubt about this intermarriage of the first generation of Normans with the Indians, it would be set at rest by the statements of the good Bishop Plessis, who visited these places and also Caraquet in 1811, and comments upon the subject in his journal (page 129), which was published in 1865 in *Le Foyer Canadien*. These unions of the very first French settlers with the native women were very common, and natural under the circumstances. Their descendants have no occasion to feel this admixture of Indian blood a misfortune. As for me, had I Indian blood in my veins I would be proud of it.

Among the Norman settlers who came to Caraquet from across the bay was George La Rocque (m. Genevieve Boutheiller). He was not a grantee, but was doubtless a Le Roc mentioned by Cooney; his descendants all live now on Shippegan. Another Norman was Pierre Gallien (whose first wife is believed to have been an Indian woman: his second was Angelique Saint Jean, widow of old Boutheiller); with him came his son Adrien (m. Dugué); others were Gabriel Albert (m. Angelique Boutheiller), and his son Pierre Albert (m. Genevieve Denis), with another son, Jean D. (m. Therese Lantaigne), not, however, a grantee. It was old Boutheiller who married Angelique Saint Jean, supposed to have been a daughter of the old Saint Jean mentioned by Smethurst. He lived across the bay, but his son René Boutheiller (m. Genevieve Chiasson) settled at Caraquet.

The names of the wives of these settlers show how closely intermarried were these Norman families, and how homogeneous in origin is this part of the population of Caraquet. The statement often made, that these wives were Indian, is not strictly true,



though they were for the most part of quarter, or half, Indian origin. Their descendants are very numerous, not only in Caraquet, but in all the surrounding districts to which Caraquet has expanded, and this peculiar Norman-Indian strain is an important and distinctive element in the population of New Brunswick.

The third group of the founders of Lower Caraquet included various Canadians from different parts of Quebec. These were Louis Mailloux (m. Lazanne Huart), Henri Chenard (m. Agnes Canivet), Jacques Morret (m. Agnes Boutheiller), Jean La Croix (m. Jeanne Albert), not a grantee, all from Quebec; Jean Baptiste Poulin (m. Isabella Gasse, 2nd Agnes Canivet), from Rimouski. The native place of Louis Brideau (m. Thomas), is not known. He later sold his lands to the Robin firm and removed to Tracadie, where his descendants are now numerous. Of the widows, Giroux and Boulet, nothing further is known, and their names disappeared from Caraquet, though they occur in the records of Shippegan. One Acadian, Joseph Chiasson (m. Anne Haché), originally from Isle Saint Jean (Prince Edward Island), and for a time a resident of Miscou, settled among these non-Acadians of Lower Caraquet.

We turn now to the Acadian settlers of Upper Caraquet. They were mostly from old Acadia, had been expelled thence in 1755, and after many wanderings had collected gradually at Caraquet. Of these the most prominent, and no doubt the earliest, was Alexis Landry. He was a native of Minas, born about 1720 (m. Marie Theriault), and expelled in 1755. Not long after, according to tradition, he settled at Little River, and made a clearing at Le Bocage, whence he was driven by MacKenzie's raid of 1761. He lived for a time at Landry's River, on Miscou, but in 1768 returned to his old clearing and settled per-

manently at Le Bocage. There, beside the chapel of Sainte Anne, is a little burial ground; and in this beautiful spot, beside his old home, this worthy Acadian founder of Caraquet rests after his life of vicissitude. His grave is marked by a good stone, which tells that he died in 1798, aged 78 years. His descendants are numerous, not only in Caraquet, but across the bay and elsewhere, and include Monseigneur Allard, the parish priest of Caraquet. With him in the great grant were included several of his sons and other relatives; René (m. Charlotte Douaron), Thadée (m. Madeline Legere), Anselme (m. T. Pinet), Pierre (m. M. Allain), and Joseph (m. M. Legere), and François.

Among the other Acadians, who were no doubt attracted here by the presence of their countrymen, the Landrys, the earliest to arrive were Charles Poirier (m. Madeline Landry), Olivier Legere (m. Marie Hebert), Pierre Thibodeau (m. Anne Landry), Alexis Cormier (m. Elizabeth Gauthier), and his brother Jean Cormier (m. Anastasie Coin, or Aucoin), and Olivier Blanchard (m. Catherine Mirault). Somewhat later came Joseph Dugas (m. Agathe Landry), René Haché, dit Gallant (m. Marguerite Blanchard), Joseph Boudreau (m. Rosalie Gaudet). With these settled a Canadian from Rimouski, Charles Gauvin (m. Randigonde Denis). All these names, excepting Gauvin, are pure Acadian, as were the names of their wives, which shows how perfectly distinct in origin were the Canadian and Acadian parts of Caraquet. Indeed this distinctness long continued, for Mr. J. E. Lantaigne informs me there were no marriages between the Acadians and Canadians for fifty years after the first settlement. In early days there was, and yet still is, some race feeling between the two sections, though this is now happily dying out.



Such were the settlers who were included in the great grant, the founders of Caraquet. In later years other lands were taken up east and west. Thus to the westward, the first settlers were Acadians, Jean B. Godin (m. Angelique Bergeron), Joseph Theriault (m. Marie Girouard), and Pierre Pinette (m. Marie Vienneau).

Among early residents of Caraquet who came here after 1784 was Victor Frierly, who latter settled at Miscou Centre, and who has descendants at Caraquet. Since then have come in some other families, Robert and Doucet from Bathurst, Boucher, Michaux and Jean from Quebec, Gouret from France. But the descendants of these are not numerous, and the vast majority of the present residents of Caraquet are descended from the families who were included in the great grant of 1784. Thus it comes about that Caraquet is a singularly homogeneous, though double, settlement, with comparatively few family names, despite the large number of residents. The settlement has grown and expanded steadily from its foundation, and has expanded to Grand Anse, to Pokesuedie, to St. Simon, and lately to Pacquetville, all of which places are merely expansions of Caraquet, with identical family names, while it has sent many others to Shippegan, Miscou, Pokemouche, and other places more remote. It is estimated that the descendants of the original thirty-four families of Caraquet now number close to ten thousand.

Such was the French foundation of Caraquet. Unlike all the other North Shore settlements, it was wholly French in origin, its small English element being comparatively very small and of later advent. The earliest known English residents were Harvey and Alexander Adams, who came from Scotland prior to 1817, and shipped timber to Great Britain. After 1817 they removed to Restigouche. Other residents

at this time were Henry Forbes, a sailor from Ireland, who later went to the United States; W. H. Munro, from Scotland, prominent magistrate and store-keeper, grantee of Munro's Island, who died here. In 1817 James Blackhall, later the most prominent English resident of Caraquet, who had removed from Aberdeen, Scotland, to Halifax in 1812, came to Bay Chaleur and traded throughout its length, and in 1821 he settled in Caraquet. He built the first frame house, which is still standing, and became Justice of the Peace, Collector of Customs and Postmaster. His son, Mr. J.G.C. Blackhall, succeeded him in his offices, and is still living, though retired, in the old home-stand. At about the same time with Mr. Blackhall came Captain George Syvret, a Jerseyman, from Arichat. He taught school, was a J. P., and later removed to Miscou, where he has left many descendants. Samuel Syvret was the builder of the stone church in 1818-1820. Charles Coughlan, from Ireland, came in the twenties, kept store, was a J. P., and died here. Andrew Wilson, from Aberdeen, Scotland, lived here for several years prior to 1827, when he removed to Miscou, and formed the important settlement of Wilson's Point. John MacIntosh, from Scotland, came about 1830, kept store, and did a fish business. Duncan Hay, a Scotchman, said to have been game-keeper to the Duke of Argyle, came about 1830, was in business here, lived for a time at Miscou, and finally went to Prince Edward Island. The Robins came in 1837, as will later be noted. About 1850 came Robert Young, originally from Dumfriesshire, and since 1825 a resident of Tracadie, whose descendants have been among the leading residents of Caraquet down to this day. And soon after came Robert Nixon, who died here; Patrick McNoughton, who later returned to Canada; John Duval, who built the church. Later



arrivals are the Sewells from Pokemouche, and the Hubbards from Miramichi.

Such were the English settlers of Caraquet. It is notable that not only were they fewer and later in arrival than the French, but many of them moved away, and few have left any descendants in the place.

A large part in the history of Bay Chaleur has been played by the Robin firm, founded by Charles Robin, of Jersey. Originally established at Paspébiac about 1764, temporarily suspended because of the attacks of American privateers during the Revolution, expanded later to various other places about the bay, it reached Caraquet about 1837, bought land from the Brideaus, and established the extensive and well-kept establishment which is an important feature of Caraquet. The practical monopoly of the trade in fish long enjoyed by this firm was broken by the entrance of the Youngs, and more recently by many other firms; and in recent years the Robin firm has been re-organized as the Robin Collas Company, Limited. This, or some of the two or three other Jersey firms of Gloucester, have had an important influence upon the peopling of this part of New Brunswick, for some of their employees, brought out from Jersey, including Rive, De la Garde, Caron, Duval, Le Rich, Fiott, and others in other parts of Gloucester, have become permanent residents, and have added a valuable element to the population of this part of New Brunswick.

Such was the foundation of Caraquet, the largest and most homogeneous, and perhaps the oldest French settlement in New Brunswick. In synopsis, it may be said that it is partly Norman French, with an infusion of native Indian, partly Canadian, and partly Acadian, with a small element of English and Jersey French. Like all other places, in these days of easy travel, it is destined to become less isolated as time

## THE HISTORY OF CARAQUET. III

goes on; but it yet continues one of the most distinctive of all New Brunswick settlements.

It remains now simply to sketch in outline some of the chief events in the progress of Caraquet. The first church was built at Le Bocage about 1786, where now stands the little chapel of Sainte Anne. This was outgrown in time, and in 1818 a new stone church, locally said to have been the first to be built of stone in New Brunswick, was erected near the site of the present church on the boundary between Upper and Lower Caraquet. When, about 1850, this in turn had become too small, the people of Upper Caraquet desired to build a new church at Le Bocage, and actually took some steps towards it, but on the intervention of the bishop the present fine large stone structure, dedicated to Saint Peter, was commenced in 1853 near the site of the old church, and was finished in 1864. In recent years this also has been outgrown, and there is now nearing completion at Lower Caraquet another stately stone church, which would do credit to many a city. Following the growth of the churches has gone the development of educational institutions. Beside the church is a convent (built about thirty-five years ago of stone from the old church, and recently enlarged), with a school for girls, which has over eighty boarding pupils. Across the road from the church rises the great stone building of the College of the Sacred Heart, one of the largest college buildings in Canada. It educates boys from seven years of age upwards, has 120 boarding and many day students, and is said to give a thorough course of study. The success of this college, as well as of the other educational and religious institutions of Caraquet, is very largely due to the devotion and liberality of one man, the parish priest, Monseigneur Allard, who built the college from his own private means, gave it to the Eudist Order for a college, and



endowed it with farm lands for its support. I believe this is the largest gift ever made to education by one individual in New Brunswick. It was in recognition of these benefactions, as well as of his personal worth, that last summer Father Allard was created Apostolic Prothonotary with the title of Monsigneur. This honor must be all the more pleasing to his people from the fact that he is himself of native French descent, being, as earlier noted, a descendant of the Landrys of Caraquet who settled across the bay.

The development of these large schools has naturally drawn support from the public schools, which are not of a grade commensurate with the size and prosperity of Caraquet. For this reason the English residents maintain a small private school for their own children, and they have also a small Protestant meeting-house, in which services are occasionally held.

Caraquet, being a maritime place, has to suffer the lot of those who go down to the sea in ships. Fishing boats with their crews are lost at times, but in the annals of Caraquet two great gales stand out prominently for the large loss of life they brought. In 1847 a terrible tempest broke when the boats were out, and nearly sixty men from Caraquet and Shippegan were drowned. In 1900 there was another storm, still vivid in the minds of residents, when thirty-three men from Caraquet alone were lost. Such is a part of the price which every fishing port has to pay for the harvest of the sea.

Among other incidents of Caraquet history was the sending of men to the war of 1812, the construction of the railway to Bathurst, which was finished in 1886, and which has added greatly to the prosperity of the place, and the Acadian convention in August, 1905, which brought a great concourse of people, with delegates, from many distant places where Acadians have gone to live. Another event which history is obliged



MONSEIGNEUR ALLARD,  
PARISH PRIEST OF CARAQUET.



to notice was the rioting in connection with the schools many years ago.

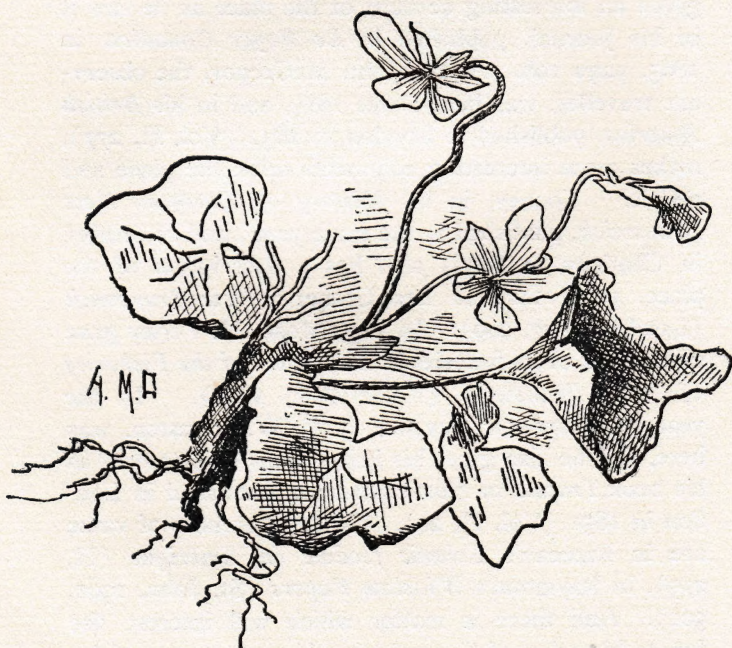
Caraquet was first included in a parish in 1814, when it was a part of Saumarez, which was then in Northumberland; but it was included in Gloucester in 1826; it was made a distinct parish in 1831, though it included Shippegan until 1851, and a part of the present Pacquetville until 1897. It was the second parish in the province of New Brunswick to be given a native name, Shediac being its only predecessor.

While no history of Caraquet has yet been written, it does not fail of mention in sundry books. Thus in 1811 it was visited by Bishop Plessis, who has given an interesting account of the place as he saw it in his journal, published in *Le Foyer Canadien* in 1865, page 108. Again, John McGregor, the observant traveller, was here about 1819, and in his *British America*, published in London in 1832 (Vol. II, 277), makes some interesting comments upon the place and people. Cooney, in his *History of Northern New Brunswick*, published in the same year (and re-printed in Chatham in 1896) also has a description of the place, page 181, as has Gesner's *New Brunswick* (London, 1847, 200). In 1850 Moses H. Perley gave an account of its fisheries in his *Report of the Fisheries of New Brunswick* (Fredericton, 1851). In the year 1849, another traveller, J. F. W. Johnston, was here, and he also gives his impressions of Caraquet in his book, *Travels in North America*, published in London in 1851 (Vol. II, 20). Other references of value are in Rameau's *Colonie féodale en Amérique* (II, 279), in Raymond's *Winslow Papers* (St. John, 1901, 501). And there is matter which will interest the future historian of Caraquet in old newspaper articles by Edward Jack, notably in the *St. John Telegraph* for October 16, 1882, and another in the *St. John Sun* for October 24, 1887.



Such is Caraquet as I have been able to see it on my two visits, and by the aid of the records here presented. It is a place growing steadily in population, influence and prosperity. I like it much, and I wish it well.

W. F. GANONG.









*Historical Map of CARAQUET*

By W. F. Ganong

Scale, 1 inch = 1 mile

